

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAVITAL STATISTICS, 1945 - (PRELIMINARY).

The following preliminary particulars for 1945 are published subject to slight revision, with particulars for 1944 in parentheses.

BIRTHS - 14,033 (13,311). The number of births registered had fallen irregularly from 12,904 in 1914 to 11,492 in 1927, from which year there was an almost continuous fall to 8,270 in 1935, but from 1935 there has been an increase each year. The total for 1945 shows an increase of 722 on 1944 and of 5,763 on 1935. The record number of births registered in earlier years was 12,904 in 1914, and this has now been exceeded by 1,129. However it must be remembered that the population in 1914 was only 445,000 compared with 630,000 for 1945. The 1914 births were equal to 28.97 per 1,000 of the population and it would have required over 18,000 births for 1945 to represent a similar rate. The rate had fallen to 14.14 per 1,000 of the population in 1935, increasing to 21.40 in 1944, and 22.27 in 1945. The 1945 rate is the highest since 1924.

SEXES OF BIRTHS - There is an oft quoted theory that a greater proportion of boys are born during war years, but this theory is not supported by the records in this Office relating to births in this State, Australia or England. For this State, the number of boys compared with 100 girls born during each of the last few years have been:- 1937 - 105.42; 1938 - 106.95; 1939 - 107.69; 1940 - 105.60; 1941 - 109.58; 1942 - 106.52; 1943 - 106.17; 1944 - 104.38 and 1945 - 104.41. The high rate of 109.58 in 1941 was practically equalled by 109.46 in 1933.

ADOPTIONS - The number of adoptions has increased rapidly. Ten years ago the number was around 100, increasing to 218 in 1942, 320 in 1943, 355 in 1944 and 317 in 1945.

DEATHS - 6,049 (5,984) were registered during the year, a decrease of 498 on the previous year. Commencing from 1921 there had been a general, though irregular fall in the death rate until 1933 when the rate of 8.44 was the lowest on record. From that year there had been an irregular rise to the rate of 10.99 in 1942, which was the highest rate since 1919 - the year of the influenza epidemic. There was a fall to 10.53 in 1943, and a further fall to 9.62 for 1944, and 9.60 for 1945, but at this date it is not possible to give details of the number of deaths from the various causes.

INFANTILE MORTALITY - The deaths of children under 1 year totalled 392 an increase of 5 on the total of 387 for 1944. The infantile death rate represents the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births. During the last 60 or 70 years there has been a remarkable drop in the infantile death rate, - from a rate of 150 per 1,000 births in the period 1870 - 1880 to a rate of 30 to 40 in recent years. In 1938 there was a record low rate of 30.50 believed to have been the lowest infantile death rate in the world to that time but New Zealand had the lower rate of 28.71 in 1942. For 1945 the rate for SA has fallen to 27.93 but it is not yet known whether this is a world record as final figures are not yet available for Victoria and Tasmania, both of which States will have very low rates.

Deaths of infants from principal causes during 1945 (1944 in parentheses) were - Diarrhoea etc. 10 (15). Congenital Malformations 58 (53). Premature Births 139 (104). Congenital Debility 11 (15). Injury at Birth 46 (49). Other Diseases peculiar to early infancy 40 (45). Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 1 (1). Meningitis - (2). Whooping Cough 8 (-). Diphtheria 2 (3). Measles - (2). Convulsions 3 (1). Bronchitis 2 (5). Pneumonia 31 (38). Hernia etc. 4 (2). Diseases of the Ear, etc. 7 (10) and all other causes 31 (42).

There were 119 (114) deaths of children under 1 day, 177 (143) of children from 1 day to 1 month, and 96 (130) of those from 1 month but under 1 year. Comparing the year 1945 with the average of the 10 years ended 1929, there were 119 (117) deaths under 1 day; 177 (206) 1 day to 1 month; and 96 (287) 1 month old and over. It will be noticed that the greatest improvement has been in respect to deaths of children from 1 month to 1 year old.

STILL BIRTHS. These are not included in either Births or Deaths, and number 338 (336).

MARRIAGES. 5,321 (6,019), a decrease of 698. Prior to the 1914-18 war, the number of marriages had risen to just over 4,000 per annum but fell to only 3,200 while the soldiers were away, increasing on their return to 4,881 in 1920. The number then became normal again, fluctuating from 4,000 to 4,500 until the depression when it fell to 3,069 in 1931. From then the numbers increased to 5,670 in 1939. Contrary to the experience of the 1914-18 war, when all the soldiers were overseas, the numbers each year during the present war have exceeded any pre-war figures. The average for the 5 years 1940-1944 was 6,843 compared with 5,305 for the period 1935-1939. The record number was 8,129 in 1942, but it was not to be expected that this number could be maintained although the number for 1943 and 1944 were still higher than pre-war, and that for 1945 was equal to pre war. The rate per 1,000 of mean population for 1945 was 8.45 (9.68). Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 382 (415). There are known to have been approximately 85 marriages of U.S.A. Army personnel since 1942.

Christmas and Easter Marriages. It had been the custom for large numbers of marriages to be celebrated at Christmas and Easter. There was the record number for any one day of 245 on the Saturday before Christmas in 1941 and 525 during the 8 day period Saturday to Saturday at Christmas time that year. Also, there were 392 during Easter week in 1942. Since then there have not been the large numbers at Christmas and Easter, in fact the numbers for December and March 1945 were only 550 and 480 respectively.

SUMMARY RETURN - The following return shows the number of births, deaths and marriages and the rate per 1,000 of mean population and the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

Period	Births		Marriages		Deaths			
					Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.16	6,843	11.17	6,235	10.17	406	34.57
Year								
1941	10,965	18.21	6,855	11.38	6,288	10.44	356	32.47
1942	11,278	18.46	8,129	13.31	6,712	10.99	448	39.72
1943	13,145	21.36	6,263	10.18	6,482	10.53	482	36.67
1944	13,311	21.40	6,019	9.68	5,984	9.62	387	29.07
1945	14,033	22.27	5,321	8.45	6,049	9.60	392	27.93